

Secondary Programs

Title: Professional-Technical School (PTS) Program Approval

Idaho Professional-Technical Schools (PTS) were established at the secondary level in the 1998-99 school year. As defined by the legislature and the State Board of Education, a professional-technical school is an organized school that is separately located and administered that offers high-end, state-of-the-art programs and services for high school students.

Districts wishing to receive PTS funding must make application to the Division of Professional-Technical Education on or before the first Friday in July for funding the following fiscal year. The application form is available on the internet.

To qualify for PTS funding applicant districts must meet four (4) of the five (5) general criteria:

1. The school serves students from two (2) or more high school attendance zones with a minimum of fifteen percent (15%) of the total student body residing in attendance zones apart from the attendance zone of the majority of students.
2. The school offers a majority of its class offerings (programs) as dual credit opportunities in conjunction with an accredited postsecondary institution.
3. All PTS programs include at least one (1) supervised field experience for all students prior to graduation.
4. The PTS is identified as a legal, distinct and separate school administered and funded separately from other secondary schools that qualify for funding as regular secondary support units.
5. The PTS exists as a cooperative service agency (CSA) in lieu of a separate facility. **Note:** Each program in a CSA must meet the fifteen percent (15%) attendance criteria.

In addition, an approved PTS must provide the following professional-technical components:

1. Is based on industry standards that are measurable using a competency-based evaluation system. **Note:** Beginning FY 2004, all seniors who are completers must take an approved end-of-program competency examination.
2. Demonstrates its responsiveness to students and to labor market needs.
3. Contains a sequence of instruction that follows a set of industry competencies.
4. Reinforces basic and advanced academic skills.
5. Promotes access and equity for all students and instructors.
6. Uses input from an appropriately qualified industry advisory technical committee.
7. Implements instructional delivery methods that use current teaching and industry technologies.
8. Employs instructors who hold PTE certification and hold a related industry-based credential or equivalent.
9. Promotes the development of leadership, interpersonal, and other cross-functional workplace skills through PT student organizations or other appropriate measures.
10. Ensures that the instructional setting is appropriate and effective regarding such elements as student-teacher ratios, number of lab and on-site work stations, field education affiliation agreements, state-of-the-art equipment, safety, etc.

The Professional-Technical School is required to submit an annual application and a performance measures report. Programs reviewed annually and receive notice of approval, conditional approval, or not approved. Those that are conditionally approved must satisfy the conditions before they are eligible for funding. Those that are not approved must correct the condition that caused the program to not be approved.

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Approved: July 1, 2005